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ABSTRACT

This guide provides teachers and librarians with helpful activities for using children's literature as a resource for acquainting middle-school children with culturally diverse families. The book selections chosen aim to offer students insight into the question, "What is a family?" The guide is organized in 4 sections according to the primary characteristics of the families depicted in stories about: "Diverse Family Groups"; "Heritage and Traditions"; "Relationships within Families"; and "Conflicts within Families." Each section is subdivided according to secondary family characteristics ranging from death in the family to homelessness. Various literary genre are represented, each featuring main characters who by their actions contribute to developing concepts about family in different social contexts. Each book selection includes a "Discussion and Beyond" section with questions to promote thoughtful discussion, and a "Target Activity" which suggests either visualization, brainstorming, role plays, or web creation as a means of helping children internalize their understanding of family relationships and values. (MM)

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